

SECRET

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17 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director for
Planning and Development

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Assignment of
Deputy Cover Officer

1. In a recent discussion of Headquarters personnel requirements, mention was made of allowing for an Assistant Cover Officer. I would like to pursue this matter further with the following observations.

25X1A 2. The Cover Officer position has always been recognized as a one man responsibility; however, an alternate has always been provided as a back-up. When Mr. [REDACTED] held the position, Mr. [REDACTED] served as his alternate. When the position transferred to the latter, Mr. [REDACTED] served as his alternate. In each instance the personnel involved were only required to concern themselves with one program and rather routine publicity service. With Mr. [REDACTED]'s departure from the staff, the position was left without an alternate. The one program of concern, namely CHALICE, has since become a target of the Soviets and the concern of the Cover Officer has correspondingly increased through additional efforts of [REDACTED]

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3. In addition, the Staff has interested itself in several new programs, one or more of which have reached a stage where cover is of paramount importance. These new programs must be recognized as truly sophisticated systems. In order to prepare a cover story of compatible sophistication one must be exposed to and indoctrinated in the basic complexity of the various systems. This will require travel, outside liaison, and considerable research, all of which lessens the availability of the responsible officer and diminishes the amount of time that can be allotted to a specific problem and still do justice to new areas of interest.

4. I have explored the possibility of an alternate as utilized in the past but find that qualified personnel are themselves working to capacity and to give them added responsibilities would create problems within their own sections. Further, the Cover Officer receives little creative assistance from an alternate who must divide his time.

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5. We find ourselves departing from the stage of the airplane and moving into areas which do not allow us to rely on the technical assistance of our own Headquarters personnel. All of us are having to educate ourselves in these new areas of interest but we are limited in number due to the security we have ourselves prescribed. This is in no way a criticism of our security program but its reference demonstrates the limited assistance available to the Cover Officer.

6. I firmly believe we must fortify ourselves with an alternate Cover Officer and remove ourselves from having to rely upon the services of only one individual. I would appreciate your reconsidering this added position under the circumstances herein cited.

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Director of Administration
DPS/DCI

RECOMMENDATION PARA 6 APPROVED:

25X1A


RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
SA/PD/DCI

DPS/DCI:JAC:js

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